

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, 13 November 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Molly O'Donnell, Bill Brown, George Huntington, Cynthia Schultz

Regrets: Gary Charbonneau, Claire Cumberland, Amanda Figolah, Jeff Jewel, David Parkhurst, David Rollo, Ashley Skooglund, Caleb Steiner

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Ian Champ, Scott Robinson

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:11 pm**.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Announcements:

- Bill Brown:
 - Final presentations for the IU walkability report is coming up,
 - Energy challenge ending tomorrow (11/14/2012) at 6:45pm,
 - Historic 82 buildings participated.
 - First ever Campus Sustainability awards will be held tomorrow at 7pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The October minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

Report on Imagine Bloomington – City's Comprehensive Plan:

Jacqui Bauer and Scott Robinson:

- Updated draft vision statement will be released soon.
 - Online response (~60 responses) and UserVoice (~75 responses) interfaces facilitated input from the public,
 - Tables were also set up at the public library and at city hall to increase participation with community outreach (~30 responses).
- Currently the City is taking the feedback into consideration for the vision statement revisions.
- Focus for the vision statement was intentionally not concentrated on what City government can change but on how the community can become what it wants to be – numerous stakeholders included.
- Comments included:
 - Comments fell roughly into three categories:
 - First, those which praised the statement as is,
 - Second, those which offered constructive criticism,
 - Third, those which condemned the plan as unimportant and a waste of time and resources.
 - Revisions have already been made to accommodate public comment,
 - Wording and intent clarifications will be reviewed and revised to increase clarity,

- Urban agriculture was a concern brought up through the UserVoice interface that received a lot of support, and a bullet was included to reflect this.
- Imagine Bloomington's vision statement will be brought before the Steering Committee tomorrow and then the Plan Commission on December 3rd,
- The hope is that public involvement will continue to grow as this plan moves forward.

Discussion:

- Cynthia Schultz:
 - Can we get a class or a student project to work on this and work to engage the younger population?
 - Perhaps using online resources?
 - Move away from bullet points and more toward visual aids.
- George Huntington:
 - Is there a framework for review of this plan? Or measuring success? Or re-visioning the vision statement?
 - *Answer* – the general rule is to review a comprehensive plan and factor in improvements every ten years but the document is still in draft form and revisions can be still easily made.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie Sullivan continued the conversation about BCOS's 2013 goals.

- Imagine Bloomington Comprehensive Plan:
 - Essentially all of BCOS would like to remain involved in this process since it is viewed to have such potential for impact in the community.
- Voting for new officers:
 - New officers will begin their term at the beginning of the new year,
 - Cynthia and Maggie are both willing to step down if other BCOS members would like to take on more responsibilities. Jeff and Molly were suggested as possibilities.
- BCOS will be giving its year-end report to the City Council in a few weeks (date to-be-decided).
- The Center for Sustainable Living has reached out to BCOS to see if the Commission would support and work towards a plastic bag ban for the City:
 - Both L.A. and Seattle have plastic bag bans in place,
 - Feedback thus far has been that the community is supportive of the idea but cautious of the implications,
 - Right now, the majority of work on this issue would most likely revolve around background research, outreach and education.
- Green Business Certification:
 - Business students are currently working on marketing strategies. We may have a presentation on this project again soon.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui updated the Commission on the status of a grant application:

- Solar Grant:
 - Working on a joint project with the School Corporation to install solar panels on two buildings,
 - This proposed project would tie fitness goals with energy goals,
 - The proposal is due Thursday (11/15/2012).
- Beat the Meter Blitz:
 - Third annual Beat the Meter Blitz will be held in December,
 - 30-40 free energy audits offered by the City in partnership with the local chapter of the USGBC.
- LEED Certification:

- City Hall has been LEED Certified.

Committee Reports:

STAR – Maggie

- STAR Committee will be working on the Food section in the near future.

STAR – Cynthia

- GRI Report:
 - Student group is working on a Global Reporting Initiative study for BCOS,
 - No effort required on the part of the Commission except for some basic coordination,
 - Potential for this report to replace the STAR, but much more needs to be sorted out before this is a viable option,
 - Other cities have done this, but not many.

Molly:

- EarthCare:
 - Fundraising breakfast to be held on the first Sunday of this upcoming February.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at **7:13** pm